

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A thin-plate-like protective film comprising a thin-plate-like material main body which protects a protected thin-plate-like material structure,

5 wherein projections are arranged continuously in predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body so as to extend from the main body, the projections each having a crown portion, a surface of which is substantially parallel with a main surface of
10 the protected thin-plate-like material structure, and a side wall portion surrounding the crown portion.

2. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the crown portion is a plane.

15 3. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the crown portion is provided with a plurality of contacts.

20 4. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the side wall portion is inclined.

5. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the crown portions of the plurality of projections project in different directions from the main surface of the thin-plate-like
25 material main body.

6. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of projections

include first projections projecting from one surface of thin-plate-like material main body, and second projections projecting from the other surface of thin-plate-like material main body, the first and
5 second projections being arranged alternately along a direction in which the projections are arranged.

7. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of projections have an equal width in the direction in which the
10 projections are arranged.

8. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of projections have different widths in the direction in which the projections are arranged.

15 9. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of projections are line-symmetrically arranged.

10. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of projections
20 are non-line-symmetrically arranged.

11. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a gap portion is formed between the plurality of projections.

12. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein some of the plurality of gap
25 portions have an equal width.

13. The thin-plate-like protective film according

to claim 1 or 2, wherein some of the plurality of gap portions have different widths.

14. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the projection is generally trapezoidal as viewed from an end surface side of the thin-plate-like material main body.

15. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the projection is U-shaped as viewed from one surface side of the thin-plate-like material main body.

16. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the projection is generally semicircular as viewed from one surface side of the thin-plate-like material main body.

17. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the protected thin-plate-like material structure comprises interconnect patterns so that the predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body are not superimposed on the interconnect patterns.

18. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the protected thin-plate-like material structure comprises interconnect patterns and electronic components so that the predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body are not superimposed on the interconnect patterns or electronic components.

19. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 18, wherein the electronic components are semiconductor chips.

5 20. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thin-plate-like material main body is long enough to protect the protected thin-plate-like material structure, which is also long.

10 21. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 20, wherein the protected thin-plate-like material structure comprises sprocket holes so that the predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body are in proximity to the sprocket holes.

15 22. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 20, wherein the protected thin-plate-like material structure comprises sprocket holes at its widthwise opposite ends, and the predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body are widthwise opposite ends of the thin-plate-like material main body.

20 23. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thin-plate-like material main body has a sheet form so as to protect the protected thin-plate-like material structure, which also has a sheet form.

25 24. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 23, wherein the predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body are two opposite

side areas of the thin-plate-like material main body.

25. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 23, wherein the predetermined areas of the thin-plate-like material main body are at least four
5 side areas of the thin-plate-like material main body.

26. A thin-plate-like protective film comprising a long thin-plate-like material main body which protects a long protected thin-plate-like material structure,
wherein conductive layers are provided at least in
10 areas of the thin-plate-like material main body other than at its widthwise opposite ends.

27. The thin-plate-like protective film according to claim 26, wherein the conductive layers are provided on respective surfaces of the thin-plate-like material
15 main body.